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Yarra Ranges Photographic Society

June / July 2008

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The Yarra Ranges Photographic Society meets every third Wednesday of the month at Coldstream Community Centre, Kelso Road, Coldstream, Victoria (Melway 281 B10) at 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start.

Our camera club has a wide range of activities based around photography, including:

- A photo competition each month
- Regular guest speakers
- Workshops on most aspects of photography from composition to technical details to digital manipulation
- An annual weekend trip
- Trips to view National photo competitions
- We also have a monthly newsletter.

For further information on our camera club, please contact Dave on 5962 4043

Competition rules

- Images may be entered in any of 4 sections: Large colour print, Small colour print, Black and white and Projected images (35mm Slide transparencies or digital)
- All prints must be mounted, framing is not permitted
- A "small" print is 5"x7" or 128mm x 179mm (area of image that can be seen) or smaller. Irregular shaped prints (eg panorama) must show an area less than 35 square inches (230 cm²)
- Slides are to be spotted on the bottom left corner when viewed correctly/normally
- A maximum of 6 images per person may be entered on any night (even if multiple topics)
- A maximum of 3 images may be entered in any one section (eg 3 large prints, 3 slides)
- The same image may not be entered in multiple categories
- Any digital manipulation is permissible, but image shown must be created from image(s) taken by the person entering the competition.

Entering Digital Images

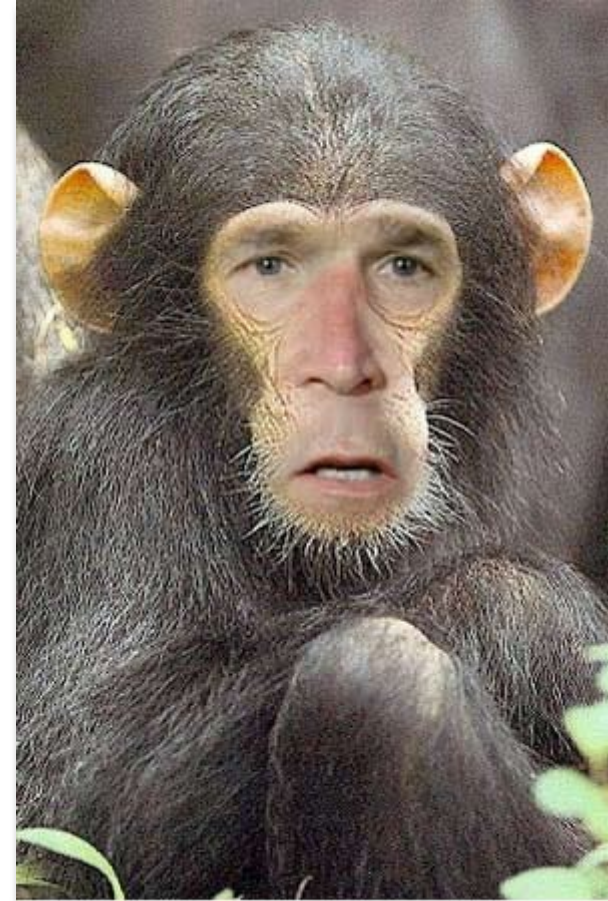
- Digital images should be brought on the night on a memory stick, DVD or CD
- Images will be loaded onto the laptop computer, so please allow adequate time for this prior to the meeting starting at 7:45pm
- Images should be sized to 768 pixels in height. For landscape orientated images this will probably be 1024 x 768 pixels, or for portrait 576 x 768 pixels. Images should be saved as a high resolution JPEG image.
- See page "How to resize your images" for info on how to do this!
- TIFF images and images not sized to 768 pixels in size will be accepted provided overall file size does not exceed 2MB. Please ask for assistance if you are having trouble working out how to size images.
- Please save images with your name as the file and number 1 to 4. If you put the number first (eg 1 Dave Blair, 2 Dave Blair, 3 Dave Blair) this will help mix them up when projected, rather than all your images being shown together.



The Editors Notes

The month of June presented us with one of our most talented, accomplished, educational, humble and entertaining judges to date – the delightful Samantha Everton. Due to time constraints, Ms Everton started by giving us a run down on her rise to the enviable position of making a living from her photographic art. What started as a work experience stint at a regional paper, graduated to a fledgling career in photojournalism for newspapers, then a degree in photography from RMIT, to her first love, artistic photography. She now displays her "creative" photography in art galleries and designs book covers for novels. She is still shooting on film (a thin, light sensitive material for recording photos!), but then her work is scanned for manipulation in Photoshop. What followed was an example of how her many varied images progressed from original form to highly evolved artistic creations. Most interesting, was the careful planning that went into each photo so photoshop was only really used to merge her very cleverly taken photos. For those who were unable to attend, Samantha's work can be viewed on her web site www.samanthaeverton.com. She managed to follow this tour de force with some eloquent judging (the first place getters in each printed category) before having to abandon us to catch the train home. Thank you to Dave and Neil for following up with the rest of the judging.

Pip



Winners are Grinners

May 2008

Results of May competition

Topic: Open

Judge: Bill Miller and Neil Follett

Small Colour Photos



1st

Sally Djurovik

2nd

Margaret Monk

3rd

Margaret Monk

Merit

Phillipa Chester

Large Colour Photos

No image available

1st

Chris Hore

2nd

Evette Scott

3rd

Phillipa Chester

Merit

Chris Hore

Black and White Photos



1st

Neil Follett

2nd

Richard Hunt

3rd

Richard Hunt

Merit

John Oakley

Projected Images



1st

Adrian Jeffs

2nd

Hazel Murphy

3rd

Alex Richards

Merit

Sandra Goss



Winners are Grinners

Results of June competition

Topic: Portraits

Judge: Samantha Everton, Dave Blair and Neil Follett

Small Colour Photos



1st **Judy Archer**
2nd Heather Holt
3rd Phillipa Chester
Merit Heather Holt

Large Colour Photos



1st **Carol Kayall**
2nd Phillipa Chester
3rd Phillipa Chester
Merit Evette Scott

Black and White Photos



1st **Carol Kayall**
2nd Phillipa Chester
3rd Richard Hunt
Merit Richard Hunt

Projected Images

No image available

1st **Kirsten Chinn**
2nd Kirsten Chinn
3rd Alex Richardson
Merit Inca girls
Merit Derek Jones



Photoshop & Lightroom Tips

This month: Part 2 - Creating the mirror background

At this point we'll need a background to reflect the image off of. Some people like smooth, level graduated backgrounds, and others like spotlighted. Apple uses sort of a spotlighted background, note where the 'hot spot' is in their images. (Note, if you're using a white-out background, then no graduations are necessary.)

We'll use a Black to White graduation first, just for the sake of this demonstration.



- I'm holding the crossover point of the gradation to just below the horizontal center of the scene, and the lighter part never achieves white. I accomplish this by starting the gradient about 20% down the scene, and dragging about 20% beyond the bottom edge of the window. This brings a 20 to 30% gray to the edge.
- Now we can begin working with the reflected image.
- First set the transparency. I used about 40%, but that will change as we move along. (diagram)
- To make the reflection realistic, as it moves away from the object across the glass surface, it gets more faint. So we'll need to simulate that "fall-off" by using a layer mask.
- Select the reflection layer, and then click on the Layer Mask button. You'll see the white mask appear next to the layer thumbnail. Click in the Layer Mask thumbnail, and its borders will become doubled to indicate it's selected.



- Now, using the gradient tool drag a tight, quick gradient from black to white. You'll notice how the black masks image and the white allows it to show. The reason I'll use a mask here is to adjust the amount of transpance by moving the actual mask up and down. (diagram)
- Turn off the lock links between the thumbnails, make sure the mask is selected, and with the move tool, you can drag in your image window to adjust where the gradient falls on the image. Very handy.

At this point we're done.

Next month: Part 3 - Fine-tuning Mirror Reflections

The Hot Tip

The Redbubble revolution

Redbubble is a captivating site. It's fun to look around. It's entertaining. It's informative. It's inspirational. It's a great opportunity.

redbubble is all about being a vibrant community of people who love to share their creativity. It's all about self expression and the ability to attach to a community that is more about supporting you than supplanting you. Now that is a breath of fresh air. Is it not?

redbubble recognizes that, given the right tools and opportunities, everyone can be an artist. Some will be better - of course - but none-the-less, everyone can - and should - produce something of artistic and intrinsic value. They then give you a platform to show what you do and gather input.

redbubble provides you with a **free** account where you can upload your images for viewing. Visitors to the site, register and non-registered members alike can view your work. As well, redbubble makes your personal account a selling mechanism. You can sell your work on redbubble and they will take care of the production, shipping and payment for you. Pretty sweet suite of tools .. eh?

redbubble offers goods on which you can put your artwork ranging from postcards to T-shirts and more. Quite an array of products ... and still ones people actually want to buy. A real opportunity.

redbubble isn't the only site like this online - and I will introduce you to more - but it is one of the neatest looking sites. You will find it filled with very talent artists. You will enjoy being a part of this community - even if it didn't have the ability to help you make some extra cash!

[join redbubble today](#)

Get creative at >> **redbubble**

What ISO is best for my pictures?

Changing the ISO setting on your camera changes the sensitivity to light of the image sensor inside of it.

The lower number that you select the less sensitive the sensor is to light (and conversely the higher the number the more sensitive it becomes).

This is useful when you're shooting in different lighting situations - particularly when there's low light and you might not be able to use a flash (you'd bump up your ISO setting in this case).

The only cost of increasing ISO is that as you do it you'll notice that the 'noise' or 'grain' in your shots also begins to increase.

You probably won't notice this graininess on your images when lookin at them on the LCD on your camera - however when you get them back to your computer they'll become noticeable with higher ISO settings.

Here's an example that I've used previously with two images taken with exactly the same settings except for the ISO (100 on the left, 3200 on the right).

As a general rule you should choose the lowest ISO possible for smooth and grain-free shots.



<http://digital-photography-school.com/blog/>



Photography Tips

By Dave Blair

Life's a blur

"It must have been a good trip, it was all a blur... well the photos are at least!" Blur in photos can provide good effects if being creative or expressing the feeling of movement. But most of the time, blurry images are just annoying. So what causes blur, and how do we control it?

Blurry images are usually due to one of four things - subject is out of focus, subject motion, camera shake and something obstructing the lens. Lets look at each.

Getting focused: Auto Focus (AF) vs. Manual Focus (MF)

Quite simple really, if the subject is not sharply in focus, the resulting image will be blurry. But how is the best way to get the subject sharp, do I use AF or MF? There is a time for both, the key is thinking about which to use and why.

AF is generally good for speeding the focusing process up, particularly when the subject to be in focus is in the middle of the image and is out in the open. Shooting fast moving action and quick grab candid shots are good examples. AF can also assist those with poor eyesight to focus accurately when your own eye is unable to. However, AF is not infallible and should not stop you thinking about focus. A common problem is allowing the camera to focus on the wrong subject, usually when the subject you want sharp is off centre. MF forces you to think about what you want in focus, and allows careful focussing of that point. Landscapes, portraits and even animals hidden in vegetation all benefit from MF. In general, if you use AF, look through the lens and ask yourself - is it sharp?

Subject motion

This sort of blurring comes when there is movement of the subject while the photo is taken. The subject may be in focus, but it has moved during the duration of the shutter being open, so registers on the film/sensor as blurred. To freeze, use a faster shutter speed (with either larger aperture or higher ISO film). If this is not possible, try to pick a time when the object is not moving as quickly (like the top of a jump between going up and coming down), use a flash, pan with the movement or orientate yourself so the movement is either directly towards or away from you. Movement blur can of course be used to creative effect if controlled.

Camera shake

This is blurring from movement of the camera. It is common with long lenses and/or slow shutter speeds. To solve the problem, use a faster shutter speed (again, larger aperture or faster film), flash or hold the camera more steady, eg on a tripod or resting on something. Using a shorter lens will also help, though to get the same fill of the frame, you will need to move closer. As a general law, to reduce camera shake to an acceptable level (on 35mm cameras) when hand holding the camera, the minimum shutter speed = $1 / \text{lens length in mm}$. (eg 200mm lens, min shutter speed is 1/200 sec).

Something obstructing the lens

This seems obvious, but it is surprising how easy it is when looking through the lens, not to see something across the subject because it is really close to the camera and therefore highly out of focus. The resulting image often just looks 'soft'. Two good ways to check are either just looking at the camera set up and where it is pointing and assess whether there is anything likely to be interfering. The other is to focus the lens through its full focus range and see if anything 'pops' into focus that you didn't expect to be there. Both these checks are much easier when the camera is mounted on a tripod.



thefatman

If you have a great tip that you would like to share send it to
shutterbug99@mac.com

The Toy Box

Resources and Gadgets

Nikon's new D700

Perhaps the worst kept secret of any recent announcement Nikon has now officially revealed the compact, professional, twelve megapixel, full-frame (FX format) Nikon D700. From the outside the D700 is virtually identical to the D300, albeit for its larger 'full frame' viewfinder, internally it's almost identical to the D3, except for a slightly slower shutter (five frames per second up to eight frames per second with the MB-D10 battery grip). By comparison it also includes several function improvements over the D3 including Image Sensor cleaning ('sensor shake'), more flexible 'hard button' programming, virtual horizon in Live View and different DX mode indication on the focusing screen. The D700 also becomes the first professional Nikon DSLR to sport a built-in flash. As far as competition is concerned the D700 really only faces the Canon EOS 5D (and any replacement that may be in the works).



For the full review follow this link

<http://www.dpreview.com/news/0807/08070103nikond700previewed.asp>

caught in the web

Some cool websites to pass the time

www.planetphotoshop.com

(Tons of photoshop information)

www.dpreview.com

(Best camera review site on the planet)

www.photoshouser.com

(National Association of Photoshop Professionals)

www.redbubble.com

(The place to sell and buy photography)

Podcasts

The easiest way to learn anything



It still surprises me that so many people just don't know or have even heard of iTunes or podcasts.

Podcasts are a fantastic source of information for learning or listening to the latest news from your favorite hobby. I have learnt so much from one show in particular "Photoshop User TV" which has gone from a smooth little video podcast on Photoshop to a syndicated show on the Fox network in the USA. Over the next few months I will introduce you to some of the best podcasts on photography and it may help find other points of interest.



Your best friends point of view

Ever wonder how your pet sees the world? I can imagine that it is pretty low of the ground, and food is always so high up.

Now, you don't have to imagine anymore with the Pets Eye View digital camera! The Pets Eye View clips to a pet's collar like an ID tag, and is completely water resistant.

The camera can be programmed to snap a photo every one, five, or fifteen minutes, and store them in its internal memory. These pictures can be downloaded onto your computer with the included USB cable. This cable can be used to charge the lithium ion battery inside the camera.



In coming months....

- 16th July** General meeting. Competition topic – Mystery image or Texture or Pattern.
20th July Warragul Nationals. This is a national competition that we encourage people to enter. We also hire a bus and go to see the display. Meet at 8am, River Street car park, Healesville. Numbers are finalised, but if additional people wish to attend please contact Jeanie on 9728 5749
- 27th July** A workshop on a variety of things will be held at Maroondah Dam in Healesville. 10am to 2pm with a BBQ lunch. Short sessions on portraits, macro and shutter speed (blurring and freezing movement). Weather dependent.
- 17th Sept** Interclub (instead of general meeting) Ringwood. Details to follow.
18th/19th Oct Annual October trip. Mansfield and surrounds is the destination. Old fashioned "how to host a murder" planned for Saturday night.
- 15th/16th Nov** Lilydale show. YRPS (that's us) will be running the photo competition again, but members can still enter. Anyone that can volunteer their time to man the stall on the days will be greatly appreciated.

Reminders

- Member survey will be passed around at next meeting (June) for people to fill in and return at the July meeting to help the committee understand what members want from their club. Anyone not attending the June meeting can get one at the July meeting, or can email me (Dave) to request one.
- The monthly competition topics are listed in the syllabus which can be found on the website. A hard copy can be obtained from committee members at the general meetings.
- After each monthly competition we want to collect images (prints) for entering in interclub and the end of year competition. The competition steward will be collecting these and keeping them in the club's art folder. If this presents a problem please let us know on the night.
- If anyone has an image or presentation they would like to give, we are looking for one of our members to present at the August meeting. We may have a couple of people do a short show, or someone do a longer one. Please ensure there is a theme (eg a trip somewhere, etc). Contact a committee member if you would like to show everyone your images.
- To project digital images please note that they should be 768 pixels high and saved as a JPEG image. To ensure meetings start on time please arrive early so they can be downloaded onto the clubs computer.

Get creative at >> **redbubble**



Editor: Phillipa Chester
Page layout: Adrian Jeffs

Thanks to Derek Jones of

Breen Printing

for printing our club's newsletter.
Breen Printing – for your printing needs
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